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Mofaz named deputy chief of staff

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz has been named deputy chief of General Staff in place of Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i.

OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, 49, was born in Iran and immigrated here in 1957. In 1966 he was inducted into the IDF.

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There are 20 major-generals in the IDF. But the expected retirement of a number of senior officers, including OC Northern Command Amiram Levine and OC Home Front Command Shmuel Arad, will leave

Mofaz and OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Davan as the most senior members of the General Staff.



Shaul Mofaz, named new deputy chief of staff. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

Ex-navy chief suspected of bribery

In what has been described as potentially one of the biggest corruption cases in IDF history, police are investigating allegations that former OC Navy Adm. (res.) Micha Ram accepted millions of dollars in bribes from an unnamed American company.



Micha Ram for more than eight hours yesterday before releasing him on bail. The US firm allegedly paid him to buy equipment from it for the navy, sources said.

Talks to resume 'within days'



Foreign Minister David Levy (left) and PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath shake hands yesterday following their meeting in Jerusalem to discuss ways to restart the peace process. (AP)

By JAY BUSHINSKY, LIAT COLLINS and HILLEL KUTTNER

The Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which came to a standstill four months ago, were brought back to life yesterday when Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath announced the immediate resumption of negotiations at the committee level.

The nine committees appointed by the two sides' respective negotiating teams will resume their work this week, Levy said after their Jerusalem meeting.

Significantly, the two sides decided to do without the mediation of European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos. This may have been Levy's way of signalling the EU that Israel was deeply disturbed by its role in the recent UN General Assembly debate that produced an overwhelming majority in favor of condemning Israel for West Bank settlement activity and Jerusalem's Har Homa housing project.

Alluding to this, Levy said the venue for constructive efforts towards peace is here in this country and between the parties directly concerned.

"Anyone who engages in activity in the international arena will throw a monkey wrench into the peace process," he said. "Peace is not achieved by pressure or sanctions. Anyone who thinks that by generating an anti-Israel resolution he is contributing to the peace process must be told he is causing it harm."

Levy told parliamentary reporters there is no longer opposition to holding direct talks face-to-face with the Palestinians to help the process along. "No outside help can take its place," said.

After his meeting with Shaath, Levy met Moratinos at the Foreign Ministry to discuss Syria and Golan Heights issues. Moratinos is scheduled to visit Damascus today. Sources believe the envoy was asked to present several new Israeli ideas meant to bring the Syrians back to the negotiating table.

One of the main factors in the PA's decision to respond to the

protracted Israeli effort to revive the talks was the assurance it received from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that the Ras al-Amud housing project will not go ahead for the time being.

Shaath cited "the commitment of Israel's government, mentioned in the past few days, about Ras al-Amud," adding: "We feel that stopping the action there contributes to the confidence being built and creates a better atmosphere for the future."

He stressed Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's pledge "to preempt all acts that would injure or harm Israelis and Palestinians."

Levy also quoted Arafat's vow to prevent "violence in all forms" and cited his intention to deal with the problem of Palestinian policemen who allegedly engage in terrorism. He referred specifically to the four policemen arrested by Israel recently.

Netanyahu told coalition MKs yesterday that the decision to build in Jerusalem should be a government decision.

"At this time we should be very careful," Netanyahu warned. "The government is committed to the unity of Jerusalem. The direction of decisions should stay in the government's hands and those who do not understand that are burying their heads in the sand."

"I have determined that there will be a comprehensive discussion on our policy on Jerusalem in the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs and there the discussion will take place in an orderly fashion," he said.

Levy told reporters the government's policy is not to build in Ras al-Amud at present. "I think our sovereignty over

Jerusalem is the foundation of our policy," he said. "There is a broad national consensus regarding that and one needs to know when to do what. One the one hand, maintaining our sovereignty and on the other being cautious in our diplomatic policy."

"I don't think this is the [right] time. The government acts to preserve its rights on the one hand and a careful policy which allows for planning each step without harming the peace process. If security is harmed, it's a bad thing and cannot be allowed."

In Washington, officials were pleased to learn of the plans to resume talks. "It's a positive step. We're glad to see this happen," a senior official said. "Clearly, the Palestinian Police-security issue held up an agreement. Clearly, this was an issue the Palestinian side hoped to see restored, that the Israeli side hoped to see restored," he said.

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Ministry, archeologists demand delay on Ras al-Amud

The Interior Ministry announced yesterday that it had suspended a permit granted for construction of Jewish housing in Ras al-Amud pending an appeal filed against the plan by two Meretz city council members.

"The appeals committee decided the permit cannot be granted until a ruling is made on the appeal," an Interior Ministry spokesman said, adding the appeal would probably be heard on August 5.

The appeal claims the area's infrastructure is insufficient for the new homes and that the building would harm the peace process.

Authority officials said yesterday that the site of the proposed development is an archeological zone that by law cannot be built on before it is excavated for possible antiquities.

Gideon Avni, Jerusalem district supervisor for the authority, said the site facing the Temple Mount is believed to be an extension of the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives.

"We are sure it will be full of graves," he said. "We speculate that it will be full of ancient burial caves, and we will demand a full excavation."

Big plans in store for Rockefeller Center

By JOHN HOLUSHIA NEW YORK (New York Times) - It has been just about a year since an investment group led by Tishman Speyer Properties and Goldman Sachs assumed control of the then-bankrupt Rockefeller Center.

In that time, Tishman Speyer, which manages the center, has landed as a tenant Christie's, the noted auction house, has retooled over 600,000 square feet of office space and is hatching big plans for upgrading the retail space in the center.

sidering converting one of the 12 buildings in the complex into an upscale hotel and are deciding whether to continue with the current operators of Radio City Music Hall and the Rainbow Room or replace them with someone else.

In addition, they are trying to make the center more of a destination by doing things like holding a Duke Ellington jazz festival on the space used as a skating rink in colder months, shifting the flower show from spring to summer and holding a classic-car competition on Rockefeller Plaza in the fall.

First surrogate pregnancy here announced

By JUDY SIEGEL

Two embryos implanted in the uterus of a woman from the North will, if all goes well, become the first babies delivered by a surrogate mother in Israel.

The in-vitro fertilization, using the ova of the commissioning mother and her husband's sperm, was carried out at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Although the hospital has an inter-disciplinary surrogacy center, the contract between the surrogate and the commissioning parents was worked out among the three and approved by the Health Ministry committee on surrogacy.

The commissioning parents, who are in their 30s and have been married for a decade, also live in the North. The wife has undergone numerous treatments, including

IVF, and suffered eight miscarriages due to an immunological problem that causes her body to reject the fetuses.

"There was no other way for them to become parents than surrogacy," said Prof. Yosef Itskovitz, director of the hospital's obstetrics and gynecology department. "This pregnancy did not involve any revolutionary techniques, but surrogacy - carried out in accordance with the new Surrogacy Law - will make it possible for many infertile couples to have their own children. This is the first step, although there is a long way to go."

He added that Israel, by having the world's first formal surrogacy law that sets down exact guidelines, can be proud of such a humane advance.

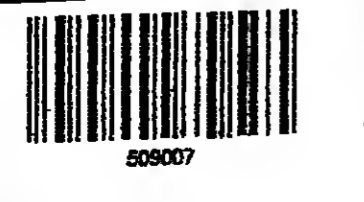
The 30-year-old surrogate receives social and financial sup-

port according to the terms set down by the law. Itim reported that, six months ago, the surrogate had become pregnant with embryos from the couple but that pregnancy failed.

The Rambam team, which includes social workers, psychologists, obstetricians, and fertility experts, is keeping close to the surrogate and the commissioning parents.

According to Itskovitz, the IVF produced a number of embryos, and three of them were implanted in the surrogate after she underwent hormonal treatment. Two of them "took" and two separate amniotic sacs were visible in an ultrasound scan. The pregnancy is now in its second month.

The other embryos were frozen and could be implanted in the future should the couple want more children.



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NEWS

in brief

Levy to Jordan today

Foreign Minister David Levy visits Jordan today at the invitation of his Jordanian counterpart, Fayed Tarawne.

PM reassures Mubarak over Ras al-Amud

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reassured Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday that his government does not intend to proceed with the Ras al-Amud housing project.

US in favor of extending MEPFA

The Clinton administration is pushing for an extension of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, which allows for US relations with the Palestinians.

Dispute over location of Susskin's evaluation

Supreme Court Justice Dalia Dornier will next week determine whether Tatiana Susskin, who allegedly posted leaflets in Hebron depicting Mohammed as a pig, should undergo her court-ordered psychiatric exam in a prison ward or in a mental hospital.

Nahal settlement inaugurated today

By ARLEN O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and top settlement officials are to dedicate a Nahal settlement in the southern Hebron foothills today, in a move Midechachi hopes will spur a rebirth of Zionist values and motivation among the nation's youth.

of the Bnei Akiva youth movement. Soldiers there will perform routine security tasks as well as farming and community work.

TALKS

Continued from Page 1

"Initial positive steps on the police issue have indeed been made. Having passed that threshold, Israel was prepared to engage on safe passage, the harbor and the airport security protocol.

some US or Egyptian brokering," he said. The official said he was not privy to other particulars of the deal, but denied that there was any trade-off as reported, along the lines of an Israeli postponement of a second IDF redeployment in exchange for a settlement freeze, or any agreement on moving directly into final-status talks.

3 no-confidence motions defeated

By LIAT COLLINS

Three motions of no-confidence in the prime minister failed in the Knesset last night by a vote of 50-55, after five hours of debate.

The two Moledet MKs abstained. MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), head of the Land of Israel Front, boycotted the vote to protest the attorney-general's ruling that the building at Ras al-Amud can be postponed.

and the Democratic Arab Party, said: "I filed this motion not just in Labor's name, but on behalf of the large part of the population which has lost its faith in the prime minister and despairs of a clear diplomatic policy. I filed it as an expression of the feeling in the whole world."

reflect this government. He also said that filing weekly no-confidence motions cheapens the value of a legitimate parliamentary tool. Shalom complained of the wording of the no-confidence motions, which described the prime minister as a danger to security.

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak told his Knesset faction in an earlier meeting that Israel is "marching towards an armed confrontation with the Palestinians, because it is not meeting expectations."

ism, military adventures, national messianism, and complete detachment from reality." He launched a scathing personal attack on the prime minister, saying: "Binyamin Netanyahu, the people of Israel is ashamed of you."

IDF closes Hebron stores for Arafat visit

By MARGOT DUDKOVITCH

Israel ordered the closure of Palestinian stores in Hebron's Shallalah Street yesterday and barred Israelis from entering the HI (Palestinian-controlled) area for security reasons as PA Chairman Yasser Arafat visited the city.

The area was the scene of intensive clashes between Palestinians and security forces after Tatiana Susskin posted leaflets on store fronts depicting the Prophet Mohammed as a pig in June.



Knesset Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif (center, dark glasses), examines building plans for Ras al-Amud during a tour of the site yesterday with MKs Nissan Smoliansky (left), Benny Elon (second from right) and Taleb a-Sanaa (right). (Flash 90)

Interior Committee visits Ras al-Amud

By MARGOT DUDKOVITCH

As plans to build a Jewish neighborhood in Ras al-Amud continued to generate sensational headlines here and abroad, members of the Knesset Interior Committee visited the site and poured over the building plans, with some supporting the proposed construction and others charging it would be disastrous.

Tova Ellinson said the appeal would be heard next week. As Jerusalem city engineer Uri Ben-Asher explained the construction plans, which include underground parking, the MKs aired their views to reporters.

provoke violence, Elon said. "The Arabs have their agenda; they can always find an excuse for violence if they want to. Look what happened when the [Western Wall] tunnel exit was opened?"

seek the Palestinians' agreement, Sharon said, adding, "The Palestinian Authority sees the Israeli presence as temporary."

Report: Mideast 'peace pulse' low but steady

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The state of affairs in the Middle East peace process has been steady since January, although it remains alarmingly low, according to a study being released today.

based Israel Policy Forum and the UCLA Center for International Relations. It rates on a scale of one to 10 and analyzes 14 qualitative and quantitative factors related to the peace process, including economics, terrorism, and Arab-Israeli relations.

Peace Pulse rating to go from bad to worse. In fact, while there was no significant progress in the second quarter, there was also no further deterioration," it stated.

Middle East experts from across the political spectrum, said it is encouraging that 68% of Palestinians now support the peace process.

MK Yehezkel: Shuafat Ridge profiteers must pay

By DAVID HAEFIS

MK Avi Yehezkel (Labor), the new chairman of the Knesset Economic Affairs Committee, demanded yesterday that everyone who bought a home in Jerusalem's Shuafat Ridge neighborhood at subsidized rates to which they were not entitled, be forced to pay the full price, even if they already have sold the property.

Cafni (United Torah Judaism) and Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) said this was not a religious issue and there have been other similar examples that have crossed the religious divide.

ing market is so expensive? Ministry representatives pointed out that of the 2,100 homes in question, so far they only have found that 13 households were ineligible. The television report suggested as many as 40% of the homes had been obtained through dubious techniques.



All smiles Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (right) exchanges smiles with a Palestinian Police officer at the Karni crossing point to the Gaza Strip yesterday. (Reuters)

Advertisement for the book 'SHALOM, I'M HERE! The New MAZAL TOV Baby's First Report Book' which records the life of a child from birth to marriage and everything in between. It is available for purchase from the publisher.

# Hizbullah threatens Katyusha attack

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah leaders reiterated threats to fire Katyusha rockets at the Galilee, as fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday.

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jezzeine region in the afternoon following prolonged exchanges in the morning in the eastern sector of the security zone.

Reports from Lebanon said the warplanes fired rockets at targets near Kafr Milki in the Iklim al-Toufah region, which is considered a stronghold of Hizbullah. There were no immediate reports of any casualties as a result of the air strike.

Early in the morning there were reports of heavy exchanges between Hizbullah and IDF and South Lebanese Army gunners.

According to reports from Lebanon two homes in Habush village, near Nabatiya, were damaged as a result of IDF-SLA shellfire, although there were no casualties.

Hizbullah said it had fired mortars and anti-tank missiles at the IDF's Suweid outpost, north of Dabsha, during the exchanges. There were no reports of any casualties.

The Lebanese government announced that it would submit a complaint to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over the damage to the homes in Habush village.

The five-nation committee established to supervise the understandings reached at the end of last April's cross-border fighting is to

convene at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura tomorrow to discuss complaints from Israel and Lebanon over recent violations.

Israel has lodged complaints over three separate incidents in the past few days. Two of the incidents occurred in fighting on Sunday during which a woman resident of Rehan village, in the eastern sector of the security zone, was wounded by Hizbullah mortar fire.

In the other incident on the same day, Israel has accused Hizbullah of firing mortars at a SLA outpost from the outskirts of Nabatiya, north of the zone. The understandings prohibit the use of villages or public facilities as cover for firing or launching attacks.

The third complaint relates to fighting on Saturday, during which Hizbullah fired Katyusha rockets at SLA positions in the eastern sector of the security zone and at least one hit the Druse village of Kawkabeh.

Hizbullah claimed at the time that the Katyusha fire was in response to earlier IDF and SLA shelling in which a 70-year-old woman resident of Sochmore, a village north of the zone, was moderately wounded. Lebanon has already protested to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over that incident.

Meanwhile, there were reports from Lebanon that the Israel Navy detained two Lebanese fishermen yesterday for encroaching too close to an area off the coast from the security zone. Lebanese radio reports said the fishermen were released with a warning.

# Accord reached on Mount Meron

By BATSHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman has intervened to resolve the years-long dispute between the Druse residents of the village of Beit Jann and the Nature Reserves Authority.

The bad blood between the villagers and the conservationists, which has taken them in and out of the courts numerous times over the years and has led to repeated violent clashes, "will be over within two months," Beit Hanassi director-general Arye Shumer declared yesterday evening after representatives of both sides had met with the president.

As part of the compromise agreement, the Beit Jann residents will present to the Nazareth district planning committee their plan for a road from the village to neighboring Hurfeish. This will legalize a road they built about two years ago which brought upon them the ire of the "greens" as it ran through the Mount Meron Nature Reserve, the largest in the country and said to be of significant international importance. The conservationists are now not expected to oppose the road.

The Beit Jann representatives came to Jerusalem yesterday to attend a session of the Knesset Interior Committee devoted to the conflict. The session was also attended by senior NRA officials and Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen. The feuding sides then went on to meet the president.

"Are the 53 Beit Jann boys who fell in the ranks of the IDF less



Knesset Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif (center) meets with representatives of the Druse village of Beit Jann who were in Jerusalem to attend the committee's meeting on the Mount Meron Nature Reserve. The villagers later met with President Ezer Weizman, who helped to find a compromise solution to their long-time conflict with conservationists over land in the reserve. (Itzhak Hertz)

important to this country than some 800 disputed meters of land?" asked Hussein Dib, who lost his only son in Lebanon and was referring to the heavy price Beit Jann has paid in defending

the security of the State. Both sides managed to keep their cool as members of the committee, chaired by MK Salah Tarif (Labor), tried to iron out the dispute. "I cannot take sides," said

Northern District Police Commander Alik Ron, whose men suffered casualties while trying to quell disturbances in Beit Jann last week. "But my heart tells me there should be a road. However, we

must all uphold the law." The compromise formula which had evaded the two sides for so long was reportedly found shortly after, when the president intervened.

## BACKGROUND

# The struggle over Mount Meron

By DAVID RUDGE

The struggle for control over land in the Mount Meron Nature Reserve has been going on for decades.

For the Druse residents of Beit Jann, it is not merely a matter of principle but a question of livelihood and quality of life, as well as recognition for the role they have played in ensuring the security of the State.

For the conservationists and legal experts, it is a question of preserving the environment, safeguarding the laws of the State, and ensuring that natural beauty is guarded for future generations.

The residents of Beit Jann maintain that they have legal rights to land inside the nature reserve, while their village is cut off from the rest of the region because it has only one access route.

The Nature Reserves Authority (NRA) and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) maintain that without laws and controls, the reserve, which is recognized as one of the most important of its kind in the world, could be destroyed by development and indiscriminate farming.

The situation exploded in 1987, when residents of Beit Jann pitched a protest tent in the heart of the reserve. They demanded the right to be able to farm their own land and be able to enter and leave the village, without having to travel dozens of kilometers to the nearest Druse community.

Attempts by NRA wardens, backed by police and border

police, to dismantle the illegal tent resulted in fierce riots in which dozens of people were injured.

Since then, attempts have been made to reach a compromise that would enable the farmers in Beit Jann to cultivate their lands in the reserve, while expanding the jurisdiction of the village to allow legal housing development.

An agreement was reached with the NRA whereby farmers with land titles would be able to cultivate their land. The NRA and the SPNI also agreed to turn a blind eye to a road blazed by the villagers between Beit Jann and nearby Eln el-Asad.

The plan, however, was rejected by the attorney-general, while Environment Minister Rafael Eitan recently opposed another road that was constructed illegally by Beit Jann residents between the village and nearby Hurfeish.

In light of Eitan's decision, the Supreme Court ruled on Sunday that the road between Beit Jann and Hurfeish should be closed from the beginning of next month.

Police have beefed-up their presence in the area, while residents have barricaded the road to keep NRA officials out of the village, which is the main access to the heart of the reserve.

In the interim, efforts are being made by all those involved to try and reach a compromise that would satisfy the conservationists and the residents of Beit Jann, whose population exceeds 9,000. Beit Jann has lost, in relation to its size, more sons in Israel's wars than any other community in the country.

## Habad receives \$1 million printing press

By RAINE MARCUS

Habad's youth village recently received a \$1 million Heidelberg printing press from a group of Toronto Jews. Habad is using the press for commercial purposes, producing material for banks and other establishments.

The youth village provides its residents, many of whom come from dysfunctional families and broken homes, a chance to learn a profession and live a normal

life, said the youth village school's vice president, Yehuda Edelkopf. Many of the teenagers are new immigrants from the CIS and Ethiopia whose families have difficulty in supporting them.

"Our aim is to give these kids a future and to teach them a profession," Edelkopf said. "And the donors are pleased that the printing press will be self-sufficient, earning money from work commissioned."

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

MICHAL VDELMAN

**Olmert Manipulated Bibi**  
If Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu fell into a trap last week in the Golan reinforcement legislation, this week he was manipulated into an impossible position vis-a-vis Ras al-Amud by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, the media and politicians agree.

Olmert's insistence on building in Ras al-Amud, in defiance of Netanyahu, is part of the groundwork for his challenging the PM for the Likud leadership, comments Yossi Werther in *Ha'arets*. Olmert's role in opening the Western Wall Tunnel, in launching the construction on Har Homa and now in Ras al-Amud, combined with his closeness to the haredim and tight relations with tycoons around the world turn him into a real threat to Netanyahu, says Werther.

**Yediot Aharonot's Nahum Barnea** reveals that Olmert refused a deal proposed by Netanyahu, according to which Olmert would halt the creation of the Jewish Ghetto in Ras al-Amud. Irving Moscovitz, the landowner, would then petition the High Court. If the court prevented the project, everyone would gain. If it approved it, responsibility for the subsequent explosion would fall on the court. "What Netanyahu and Olmert finally did - agree to trust Moscovitz's word - is like leaving the fire station in the hands of a pyromaniac," states Barnea. He compares Tatiana Susskin and her pig leaflet in Hebron to Moscovitz in Jerusalem. Moscovitz, with whose money and clout the famous Jerusalem tunnel was opened, purchased houses in the Moslem Quarter and Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem, "putting together poor, nationalistic Moslems with extremist Jewish settlers whose real goal is to deport the Arabs from Jerusalem and burn down the mosques of the Temple Mount. The combination is impossible. The friction is violent and dangerous - but Moscovitz won't be here when it all blows up."

**"Humor and attraction"**  
Yosef Lapid, in *Ma'ariv*, writes of the ad promising "an evening full of humor and attraction" dedicated to raising to heaven the souls of the 73 victims of the helicopter disaster. The ad was not

some miserable mistake of a copywriter gone mad, says Lapid. Behind it was Rabbi Amnon Yitzhak, a famous "converter," whose actions Lapid brands "the subversive work of fanatic fundamentalism threatening our culture and way of life." Lapid describes Yitzhak's "happening" as something of a circus-cum-vooodoo show, adding that he threatens his listeners that whoever doesn't convert will end up in hell. He preaches against Zionism and casts doubt over the Israeli state's right to exist, says Lapid.

**Ma'ariv's Kobi Bleich** offers the view of the bereaved parents, who were shocked to learn of the use made of their loss by the converter's people. They slammed the affair as a cynical exploitation of their tragedy to attract crowds to Amnon Yitzhak's show.

**Pretty in Pink**  
Prime Minister Netanyahu's rejection of the pessimistic estimates for 1998 presented by the financial leadership and his ordering of a more optimistic forecast attracted much media comment.

They used to kill the messenger, comments Dov Genichovski in *Yediot Aharonot*. Now they just return the message and demand a better one. However, he notes, the prime minister is probably right - not because the Treasury's forecast is too black, but because it is too pink. The trick is not to shelve forecasts which depress the country's leader, but to admit the truth.

**Ma'ariv's Lapid** scoffs at Netanyahu's demand for a more cheerful forecast, noting that it derives from the superstition that prophecy determines the future. The GNP won't grow simply because the Treasury predicts it will, states Lapid. Growth is a function of objective economic conditions. When such conditions do not exist, talking will not help.

**Ma'ariv's Gabi Kessler** suggests that Netanyahu was right to send the Treasury people to do their homework. The Treasury's job isn't to predict what will happen to the economy but to propose alternatives to economic policy, tell the ministers what will happen if they fail to make the required budgetary slashes and then let them decide.

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مكتبات الوصول

**NEWS**

in brief

**Corruption found in assigning recruits**

The army said it plans to indict over a dozen soldiers and officers for allegedly accepting bribes to grant recruits easy service. At least two have already been charged, the army said. The alleged corruption took place at the IDF induction center and involved dozens of cases of recruits seeking to get out of field units and get assigned to rear units close to home. One officer, identified only as Staff-Sgt. Eyal, a senior warrant officer at the induction center, was charged on 16 counts of accepting bribes in return for helping recruits get removed from courses and reassigned to easy units, like the induction center. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

**Navon back to work**

IDF Chief Chaplain Maj.-Gen. Gad Navon returned to work yesterday, nearly two months after he collapsed during a Jerusalem Day ceremony after suffering an apparent heart attack. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak visited Navon at his office and welcomed him back to work. Navon, 75, has served for 20 years as chief chaplain. Shortly after he fell unconscious in his chair at a ceremony on Ammunition Hill, Shas and the National Religious Party began pushing for their candidates to replace him. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

**Palestinian intifada victims protest at Knesset**

Palestinian victims of the intifada, who stand to lose from new legislation due to have been introduced in the Knesset late last night, demonstrated yesterday outside the House. Three young Palestinian girls, who were inadvertently maimed by stray rubber bullets and partially paralyzed as a result, visited the Knesset and met with MKs to explain the need to receive compensation for their plight. The new law would define IDF actions during the intifada as activity in time of war, thus freeing the state of responsibility for compensating most victims. *Batsheva Tsur*

**Veteran 'Hatzofeh' journalist dies**

Ya'acov Edelstein, a veteran journalist at *Hatzofeh* and one of the four survivors of the massacre at Kfar Etzion during the War of Independence, died yesterday at age 69. He was buried on Jerusalem's Har Hamenuhot. Edelstein sat in captivity in Jordan for nine months following the massacre, and began working for the National Religious Party-affiliated daily upon his return. He served as its diplomatic correspondent for many years. The Polish-born Edelstein authored 14 books, and was chairman of the Religious Authors Association, also serving as the editor of its journal. He left his wife, two sons, two daughters and grandchildren. *Iim*

**World Congress of Jewish Studies opens**

The 12th World Congress of Jewish Studies officially opens tonight with a ceremony at Jerusalem's Citadel Museum. Researchers from 28 countries will participate in the week-long event which will be held on the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University. The topics to be covered in the 1,250 lectures on offer range from bible studies and history to art and contemporary Jewry. *Jerusalem Post Reporter*

**Artificial heart patient doing well**

Yishai Einbinder, 50, who underwent implantation of an artificial heart at Sheba Hospital a month ago, is doing well and even reading a daily newspaper. Doctors at the Tel Hashomer hospital said he recently started walking outside his intensive cardiac care department and is taking interest in what's going on in the world. He received the artificial heart when his condition deteriorated seriously and no donor heart was available. *Judy Siegel*

**Meretz MK Ran Cohen:**

**'Housing Ministry favors haredim'**

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Housing Ministry under Deputy Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism), has completely stopped all funding to many non-haredi neighborhoods and localities while it has funneled NIS 4.3 million to haredi areas this year, MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) charged yesterday. Cohen, who is in bed with a broken leg, wrote to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, asking that she investigate this "discriminatory policy." According to figures provided by Cohen, a total of NIS 5.635m. has been cut from sec-

ular and national-religious neighborhoods since 1995. For example, Bnei Ayish, a national-religious community, which received NIS 240,000 in 1995, received only NIS 100,000 last year and zero this year, Cohen said. South Givatayim, which was funded by the ministry to the tune of NIS 250,000 last year, did not get one agora this year. Bat Yam south, which received assistance amounting to NIS 500,000 in 1995, this year received a mere NIS 100,000, Cohen said, and Taiba's budget was cut from NIS 2,500,000 in 1995 to NIS 600,000 in 1997. At the same time, the haredi Vznitz

quarter in Haifa, which received NIS 60,000 in 1996, got 10 times that - NIS 600,000 - this year, and the haredi Neveh Sharett quarter of Tel Aviv received a whopping NIS 1,200,000. "Over two years, the total cut to non-haredi neighborhoods was NIS 5.635 million while the total increase to the haredi neighborhoods was NIS 4.3m," Cohen wrote to the comptroller. "Deputy Minister Meir Porush is acting in an unbalanced fashion and with total disregard for elementary rules of public conduct [which require him to] serve the entire public in Israel and not just his voters and followers."

"Bunkum," said Porush's media adviser, Moshe Eilat, when asked to respond. "There is not an ounce of truth to the allegations. They are a cheap political attempt by Cohen to get headlines and to curry favor with the fringe secular leftists of Meretz. "The ministry does not make distinctions between secular and haredi residents. Our work plans include secular Jews, Arabs and Druze as well and our criteria are professional," he said. Eilat added it was impossible to give a breakdown of funds that were given to different neighborhoods this year.

**Bid to reduce school-fees burden**

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Iim

Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell proposed yesterday that the ministry cover the NIS 10 million difference between last year's and this year's mandatory school fees to lessen the burden on parents.

Dell discussed this yesterday with MK Emanuel Zissmann, head of the Knesset Education and Culture Committee. They agreed Dell would address the committee today regarding the cancelling of matriculation exam fees (at a cost of NIS 30 million) and on the Education Ministry absorbing the difference between last year's and this year's mandatory school fees.

"I will not authorize any payment from the parents this year which is higher than last year's payment," Zissmann said yesterday.

The Education Ministry also announced yesterday that starting September 1 there will be 130,000 more classroom hours. This includes 60,000 hours to accommodate natural growth and 50,000 hours for long-school-day projects.

Meanwhile, according to a survey Dr. Shlomo Tzedkiah presented to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday, the public is satisfied with the current system which allows parents to select their children's school.



Final exam

Veteran IDF jumpmaster Mordechai Okrat, 46, points the way out to a graduate of his final jump course as a reservist instructor. (IDF Spokesman)

**Tichon recommends cutting Knesset recess**

Following a request by MK Ophir Pines (Labor) and others, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon recommended that the Knesset House Committee cut the summer recess by two weeks. The recess is scheduled to start next week and end in late October. Tichon noted, however, that even during the

recess the Knesset works and several committees hold regular meetings. Also, the opposition usually asks for special plenum sessions to be held. Yesterday the House Committee held a long discussion on procedure which could allow the Knesset to hold no-confidence motions during the recess. The request

for this was made by Labor MK Haggai Meron. Tichon noted he had also recommended the recess be cut last year but, he added, "that was the one recommendation of mine the House Committee rejected in the past 13 months." *Liat Collins*

**Greenpeace activists get slap on wrist for protest**

By SUE FISHKOFF

Greenpeace activists involved in a protest action against Haifa Chemicals on Sunday were fined NIS 50 yesterday by a Haifa Magistrate's Court judge who lauded their commitment to environmental protection. Early Sunday morning, the Greenpeace ship *MV Sirius* attached itself to a barge used by Haifa Chemicals to dump its toxic sludge into the Mediterranean. The *Sirius* dragged the barge into

the middle of Haifa Bay. Four Greenpeace activists chained themselves to the barge's deck and raised a placard reading, "Stop Dumping Now." The four, along with the ship's captain, were detained and charged with "using a sea vessel without the owner's permission," which carries a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment.

At a hearing yesterday morning, Judge K. Hir ordered the three foreign defendants - the ship's captain

and two crew members - to pay a NIS 50 fine and sign a promise not to repeat the offense for a period of two years. Their two Israeli co-defendants will be sentenced later.

"The defendants' intention was to demonstrate to the public the environmental danger that results from the dumping of toxic waste at sea, and their actions bore fruit," the judge stated in his verdict. He noted that the Environment Ministry responded to the protest Sunday by announcing that Haifa Chemicals

and the Electric Corp. must stop dumping their toxic waste into the Mediterranean by the end of 1997.

"Although we should congratulate the defendants on their protest, which resulted in a positive contribution to the environment, they nevertheless acted against the law, and the law obliges me to punish them," the judge continued. "But because of the nature of their intention and the positive consequence yielded by their actions, I fine them NIS 50."

Greenpeace Israel head Ofer Ben-Dov said he was very bappy with the decision. "That fact that the judge fined them only symbolically shows that he believes we were right," Ben-Dov said. "We won the Environment

Ministry's promise to halt dumping of coal ash and toxic sludge at sea by the end of the year, and that's what we had aimed for."

"I was charged with a criminal act, but the real criminals are those polluting the environment," said *Sirius* Captain David Enever. "They're the ones who should be standing in this [the defendants'] dock. The multinational companies polluting the environment hide behind the law, and the law can only be changed by people advocating a better, cleaner future." The *Sirius* left Haifa yesterday for Malta after a 10-day visit during which crew members hosted the public on three "open ship" days in the ports of Ashdod and Haifa.

**High rate of anemia found in J'lem babies**

By JUDY SIEGEL

Iron-deficiency anemia, which can slow children's physical and intellectual development, is significantly more common among babies in haredi and Arab families in Jerusalem than among national-religious and secular Jewish families, though the rate is quite high in the latter groups, too. This is the major finding of a survey conducted by the Jerusalem Municipality's public health nurses and reported by the Health Ministry.

The study found that 35% of haredi babies are anemic (with a rate of less than 11 grams of hemoglobin per deciliter of

blood), compared to 27% of Arab babies and only 22% of babies from modern Orthodox or secular families. By comparison, the rate of iron-deficiency anemia in the US is less than 10%.

The ministry said it is "making the findings seriously" and intends to collect data on iron-deficiency anemia among babies around the country along the lines of the Jerusalem research. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said efforts will be made to prevent anemia at family health (*tipat halav*) centers and through other community health services.

Dr. Arie Reisin, head of Jerusalem's municipal public health services, explained that some parts of the haredi community "don't trust the kosher certification" on iron-enriched dairy-based baby formulas, and instead purchase only non-dairy, soya-based baby formulas, and instead purchase only non-dairy, soya-based formulas. "Soya retards the absorption of iron in the intestines," explained Reisin. In the Arab community, many mothers give their babies either cow's milk or bottles-made from ordinary powdered milk, neither of which are iron-enriched. Women who nurse should also give their infant an iron supplement in syrup form to increase the baby's iron intake.

The ministry stresses the importance of giving iron supplements and iron-enriched food to babies. Infants aged four to 12 months should be getting them in addition to vitamins A and D.

Reisin said that efforts to persuade leading rabbis in the haredi community of the importance of iron supplements for babies has not yet borne fruit. "In general, every time a baby has some symptom, mothers tend to blame it on the iron and then discontinue it," he said.

Asked why the municipality doesn't target parents with children in the kindergartens and first grade for information campaigns, Reisin said this was a good idea that could be implemented. "But it would have to be with pamphlets explaining the dangers of anemia and urging parents to take their children to their health fund for a blood test. It would be impossible to conduct blood tests in kindergartens or schools," he said.

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The right forecast

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is under attack again. This time from former finance minister Dan Meridor, who accuses him of manipulating Treasury growth projections to suit his purposes.

vization, fundamental tax reform, or structural government reform in the near future. It would not hurt the Treasury to exercise creative muscles that have lain dormant for some time.



Redeployment revisited

The people in the GMC were on their way to Tel Rumeida in Hebron. Suddenly they heard a loud boom and felt smoke pouring into the van.

NOAM ARNON DAVID WILDER
The residents of Beit Hadassah are forbidden to go down to the street literally at the foot of their homes.

ers beyond the buffer zone. Jews are prevented from entering holy places. Even going to the cave of the first Judge, Omri ben Kenaz, 250 meters from Beit Hadassah, is impossible for Jews.

Track record

MICHAEL B. OREN

Listen, and you can almost hear it — the sound of history passing the Palestinians by again. US diplomats who, two years ago, would issue daily statements on the peace process are virtually mute.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE TEMPLE MOUNT
Sir, — In his letter of July 10, Ronnie Cohen asks, after describing Waqf interference in his professional tour-guide duties when displaying a sketch of the Second Temple in the Temple Mount courtyard, "I mean, whose city is this?"

SURVIVOR
Sir, — Much is written these days about the danger of serious violence erupting in the Gaza, Judea and Samaria areas under Palestinian control because Israel is not pressing on with the Oslo "Peace" Accords.

DOMINICAN EMBASSY
Sir, — On July 9 you published a report regarding the possibility of closing the Israeli Embassy in the Dominican Republic. This is not the first and only time this possibility has arisen.

It's hard to believe, but the Palestinians have blown it again
Barak's 80 percent is not enough for a national showdown, especially as both men could easily compromise on 60 percent.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES
60 years ago: On July 29, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that in the House of Commons Mr. Anthony Eden said that the approval of the League of Nations was necessary for any alteration of the terms of the Palestine Mandate.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES
Yehuda streets. Fire was opened at the District Commissioner's office in Jaffa Street.

Dusting off Mr. Magoo
Like many kids, I'd spend Saturday mornings glued to the TV watching cartoons. Though legally blind, I'd sit very close to the set, using my small amount of vision.

Track record (continued)
Even if I wanted to, I couldn't stop Disney from releasing its Mr. Magoo movie. But I hope that, one day, Hollywood will make films that don't demean people like me.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.







# List confirms Swiss ignored post-war accord with Allies

## 1946 agreement committed Bern to hand over all German booty, David E. Sanger reports

WASHINGTON (NY Times) — When Switzerland's bankers finally broke a half-century of silence last week and published a list of accounts dormant since the day World War II ended in Europe, they hoped that it would show the world that they were now serious about making amends to Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

Their reluctant breach of traditional Swiss banking secrecy may yet accomplish that goal. After two years of relentless criticism, the bankers were praised last week for finally putting some energy into the search for accounts that were "lost" after the war.

But as the reluctant bankers feared, that same list already is raising a host of new questions, not only about why the banks kept Holocaust victims from finding their assets for so long, but why they helped protect the Nazis even after the war was long over.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles already has identified a handful of accounts on the list that probably belonged to Nazi leaders and collaborators. That discovery is hardly surprising. But for the first time, investigators now have virtually irrefutable evi-

dence, drawn from the banks' own archives, that Switzerland knowingly violated its agreement in 1946 to turn over much of Germany's booty to the Allies.

That agreement, called the Washington Accord, was signed long after the Swiss could claim that they had no other choice but to provide banking services for the Nazis because they were surrounded by hostile powers.

The accord required that the banks comb through their accounts and their safe-deposit boxes, find all assets belonging to Germans living in Germany during the war, liquidate them, and turn over half the proceeds to the Allied powers to help resettle war refugees, including the Jews.

Last week's list, however, included scores of accounts in which the last known address of the depositor was in Germany. Clearly those accounts would not exist today had the Swiss fulfilled their obligations.

"Of course we knew the Swiss were not complying with the agreement, and that was one of their

most deplorable actions in the years after the war ended," said Seymour Rubin, an American negotiator of the 1946 accord, who has helped investigators reconstruct the murky records of those events. "But until a few days ago, we never actually saw the proof — the accounts that give the last known address of the depositors as Germany. If the Swiss had turned over this list when they should have, they wouldn't have this problem today."

In Switzerland, both officials and knowledgeable financial industry executives say the questions raised by the publication of the list of dormant accounts was one of the reasons the bankers were reluctant to release it.

"This proves the adage that no good deed goes unpunished," said Christoph Meier, a younger spokesman for the Swiss Bankers Association who was brought in to make the point that a new generation in Switzerland was ready to face up to the mistakes of their fathers and grandfathers.

"We knew that the list would

raise some other issues, many of them unpleasant," Meier said. "But we had no choice. We had to publish the list and shed light, and we are doing the right thing."

The banks realize, though, that this list will spur demands for more detail. Investigators already suspect that many of the names on the list are false, set up by Nazis attempting to hide assets as the Third Reich fell. And it provides only a glimpse of the extent of Switzerland's dealings with Germany.

Excluded are any accounts in which activity took place after May 9, 1945, the day after Germany's surrender took effect. Any deposits, withdrawals, or inquiries that occurred afterward — including actions by Nazis attempting to escape capture or fleeing to South America — were not included.

Nonetheless, the Wiesenthal Center's first review of the dormant accounts list revealed accounts that it suspects belonged to the chairman of I.G. Farben, the maker of the poison gas used in the concentration camps, which

moved many of its assets to Switzerland after it became clear that Germany would lose.

It also found an account that probably belonged to the wife of Ernst Kaltenbrunner, a Nazi SS official, and another that belonged to an aide to Adolf Eichmann. There were also accounts that appeared to have belonged to art smugglers and gold runners. The center has asked the banks for more information.

For the Clinton administration, the revelations of the German accounts also pose a modern-day policy problem that the State Department appears eager to avoid. Before it published a report in May, called "US and Allied Efforts to Recover Stolen or Hidden by Germany During World War II," officials debated whether Switzerland should be forced to abide by its agreement, 50 years later.

The report concluded that "the Swiss had no intention of ever implementing" the 1946 agreement. But the reaction to the report in Switzerland was so intense and so negative that US President Bill Clinton made a conciliatory call to the president of the Swiss Federation.

# Deaf-mute not better off in Mexico

By MARK FINEMAN

MEXICO CITY (LA Times) — As they sat in their squalid home here last week, Guadalupe Muniz Rodriguez's parents shook their heads over what they said was the most perplexing, unanswered question after their daughter's 14-month ordeal.

Why, even after New York City police rescued Muniz — along with 56 other deaf and speech-impaired Mexican migrants — from servitude in a trinket-selling ring that forced them to live dozens to a room in a small Queens apartment, would she and the others tell Mexican authorities that they still don't want to return home? The answer, Jose Badillo Huerta and other advocates here said, lies in Mexican society. They say it has little tolerance and offers few opportunities for people like Muniz, 20.

When asked to describe attitudes here toward the deaf, blind, and speech-impaired, Badillo — who started Mexico City's first private school for the deaf 17 years ago — replied: "It's deplorable. Why don't these deaf and speech-impaired want to go back to Mexico? Because there's nothing for them here. Because there, in the United States, they have everything they don't have here. There, they have food. There, they have a job. There, they have some understanding. It's a horrible life for them there, but it's even more horrible here."

No matter how bad their lives were in New York, where police say the Mexicans worked 18-hour days selling key chains on subways, Badillo said it is even worse here in their native land. In this metropolis of more than 20 million, where life can be hard and unemployment high enough even among those without disabilities, Badillo and other advocates say, neither the government nor society — not even their families — have much to offer those who cannot see or hear or walk.

There are only a handful of wheelchair ramps in Mexico, Braille signs are nonexistent in

public places. Translators who know Spanish sign language are few. And even the closest family members treat deaf or blind relatives with shame, Badillo said.

The problem, he said, begins at home. "The mentality of parents now is that they just hide them under the rug," he said. "If a doctor or a public official has a deaf child, it just isn't possible to show it. For example, there is a very famous Mexican comedian who had a deaf brother, but he never let anyone know it. He gave him financial assistance, but it was like saying, 'Shut up and go over there...'"

There are some government schools for the blind and deaf, but they are few and underfunded. Badillo's National School for the Deaf and Mute offers free tuition for the needy. But the private Silent Friends Group that funds it can only afford facilities for 40 students at a time.

Change, Badillo said, also must begin at home. "The parents must be brave enough to stand before society and the government and demand, 'This is my child, so respect him. I'm not asking, I'm demanding that justice is done. He is a human being. He is just like any other Mexican citizen. And there are internationally accepted rights he should have.' The parents' mentality must be that they are proud of their child."

For many families here with disabled youngsters, however, life is not just about standing up for their children. It is a bigger, more basic struggle with overwhelming poverty.

What Muniz left behind in Mexico City's impoverished Iztacalco neighborhood is a tin roof over four rooms of crumbling, cheap concrete. This is home for 12 members of her extended family. There is no plumbing. Meals are cooked over an outdoor fire in a tiny courtyard.

Muniz's parents insisted that they are proud of her and that they had kept her home not out of shame but because there were no opportunities for her beyond the family's ramshackle front door.

# H. Humphrey III seeks role in tobacco-war

By BARRY MEIER

MINNEAPOLIS (NY Times) — Earlier this month, trucks pulled up to a warehouse here already swollen with cigarette company records and unloaded more than 200,000 documents that may represent the tobacco industry's best-kept secrets and its biggest vulnerability.

The new documents have been seen by only a handful of people who are legally barred from speaking about them. But lawyers for the state of Minnesota, which is suing the tobacco industry, claim that the documents, which only have been disclosed to them in summary form, contain evidence of a decades-long conspiracy by cigarette makers and their lawyers to suppress evidence and deceive the public about the dangers of smoking.

In the wake of smoking-related lawsuits filed by states in recent years, Minnesota can claim two distinctions. In the talks leading to last month's \$368.5 billion tobacco settlement proposal, its attorney general, Hubert H. Humphrey III, emerged as the plan's principal opponent. After losing that round, Humphrey seized on a unique aspect of Minnesota's case — no other state has plucked the padlocked files of the tobacco companies with such intensity and single-mindedness.

Two weeks ago, Humphrey, in an effort to influence the congressional debate over the proposal, urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to subpoena key records from his state's case so that Congress could review them as it considers turning the proposal into legislation.

"I want Congress to know the facts to the greatest extent possible before a bargain is made with the American people," Humphrey said in an interview.

Critics of Humphrey, who is running for governor, see his proposal as little more than political grandstanding and a continuation of the obstructionist role that he played during settlement talks. But his suggestion has not fallen on deaf ears.

Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the Judiciary Committee's ranking Republican, and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, its ranking Democrat, have said they want to see the most important Minnesota documents. And even those involved in crafting the plan, like Stanley Chesley, a class-action plaintiffs' lawyer, have recently scrambled to provide some 200 selected industry documents to committee members.

Under the proposed settlement, cigarette companies would be required to disclose health-related documents except those which they claim involve trade secrets or are protected by attorney-client privilege. But the comments of Humphrey have broadened the debate from criticisms of the records-disclosure provision to larger questions about which industry documents Congress should have as it weighs the monetary value and public health benefits of the agreement.

Recently, for example, Leahy said he could not back a settlement that provided cigarette producers with immunity against punitive damages and class-action lawsuits, as the proposed settlement would, unless they reveal everything they know about their products' dangers.

"I offer one simple and direct principle to guide us," Leahy said at a recent Judiciary Committee hearing. "No immunity without full disclosure."

Industry officials and others involved in the accord said demands for document disclosure are unrealistic. Tobacco companies, they said, must shield some documents because of future lawsuits. And one industry lawyer said new documents suggesting deceptive activity by tobacco companies would not produce revelations but would only reinforce existing public opinion.

Whatever the case, the breadth of industry documents collected by lawyers for Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi, a firm here that represents the state and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, is unrivaled in the history of tobacco litigation. For example, in all previous smoking-related lawsuits, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., a subsidiary of BAT Industries PLC, produced about 5,000 records, said David Bernick, a company lawyer. But since the start of the Minnesota case in 1994, the cigarette maker has disclosed four million pages of documents.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli stocks traded in New York, including AMEX and NASDAQ indices and individual company shares like Amip Paper Mills and Amal American.

MISHANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table listing the top 100 Mishanim TASE issues, including companies like Amip Paper Mills, Amal American, and various technology and industrial firms.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares, including companies from various countries like Amip Paper Mills, Amal American, and international corporations.

NEW YORK

Large table listing various New York market data, including stock prices, indices, and company names.

Table showing TASE Roundup with columns for Stock, Last, and Change. Includes companies like I.S. Intelligent Inc., U.S. Land Develop, and various technology firms.

Table showing NYSE market data with columns for Stock, Last, and Change. Includes companies like Blue Square, Sun Microsystems, and various financial institutions.

Table showing New York Market Indices with columns for Index, Last, and Change. Includes DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, and various market baskets.

Table showing Other Market Indices with columns for Index, Last, and Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, and various international indices.

Table showing US Commodities with columns for Commodity, Last, and Change. Includes various agricultural and industrial commodities.

Table showing Spot Market Metals with columns for Metal, Last, and Change. Includes various types of copper, silver, and gold.

Table showing New York Metal Futures with columns for Metal, Last, and Change. Includes various metal futures contracts.

Table showing London Metal Futures with columns for Metal, Last, and Change. Includes various metal futures contracts traded in London.

TASE ROUNDUP Stocks slip before rate decision

Stocks slipped from records yesterday as analysts and investors awaited the Bank of Israel's decision on interest rates. The Mishanim Index of 100 most-traded stocks eased 0.21 percent to 304.28, while the Maof Index of 25 top issues slipped to 311.58, down 0.38 percent.

All eyes were on the central bank, and "maybe some investors see a rise" in rates coming, said Dror Kraus, analyst at Koor Investment House. Kraus and other analysts like Ron Weisberg, analyst at Israel Brokerage and Investments, foresee no change.

The jump in the June inflation report "was due to the dollar, which strengthened against the Israeli shekel and now has weakened back a bit," Weisberg said. "There's no point in upsetting everyone by raising rates," he said. The Clal holding companies advanced as the group announced a restructuring. Parent Clal Israel Ltd. rose 1.25 percent, and Clal Electronic Industries Ltd. tacked on 2 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average clung to a small gain yesterday to set another record, but stocks turned mostly lower by the close as investors took a defensive stance before today's key economic data. The Dow surrendered most of a 65-point afternoon gain, rising 7.67 points to 8,121.11, but that was enough to beat Thursday's record finish at 8,116.93.

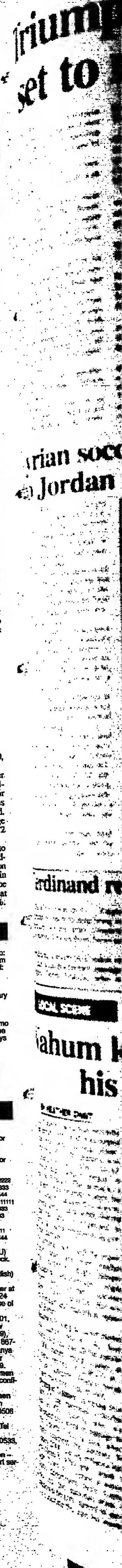
Most broad-market indicators turned slightly negative over the last hour of trading, but the American Stock Exchange also managed to hold onto enough of a gain to set a new high. The Nasdaq market was lower most of the session, weighed down by another weak day among computer-maker stocks.

Shares moderately higher. LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's FTSE 100 leading share index finished moderately higher yesterday, bolstered by strength in the large multinational companies that benefited from a vicious sell-off in sterling, traders and analysts said. The FTSE 100 closed at 4,862.6, up 11.1 points or 0.23 percent.

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DUTY HOSPITALS. Jerusalem: Bkhar Holim (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics); Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniach.



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Major League Statistics

AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAM BATTING table with columns: Team, AB, R, H, HR, RBI, Avg.

AMERICAN LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL BATTING table with columns: Player, AB, R, H, HR, RBI, Avg.

AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAM PITCHING table with columns: Team, IP, H, ER, BB, SO, W, L, ERA.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM BATTING table with columns: Team, AB, R, H, HR, RBI, Avg.

NATIONAL LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL BATTING table with columns: Player, AB, R, H, HR, RBI, Avg.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM PITCHING table with columns: Team, IP, H, ER, BB, SO, W, L, ERA.

NATIONAL LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL PITCHING table with columns: Player, IP, H, ER, BB, SO, W, L, ERA.

Continuation of Major League Statistics tables for American and National Leagues.

SCRAMBLING TO SAFETY - New York Mets' shortstop Rey Ordóñez can't hold a throw from catcher Todd Hundley as Padres' Quilvio Vera steals second base in first inning action in the game played in San Diego on Sunday.

Hampton throws complete game as Astros notch ninth straight win

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Mike Hampton tossed his fourth complete game in six July starts as the Houston Astros matched their longest winning streak since 1991.

drove in three runs and scored twice for the Astros, who swept a four-game series for the first time since August 2-5 against Atlanta.

Steve Finley and one by third baseman Ken Caminiti. AMERICAN LEAGUE Mariners 3, Yankees 2.

Ullrich's triumph presages new era in Tour de France

By REX GOWAR PARIS - Hardly had one door closed on Miguel Indurain's brilliant Tour de France career than another opened on his successor Jan Ullrich.

"We have witnessed the birth of a champion," said Tour director Jean-Marie Le Blanc as Ullrich won the French classic on Sunday.

Paris - Hardly had one door closed on Miguel Indurain's brilliant Tour de France career than another opened on his successor Jan Ullrich.

National League and American League standings table with columns: Division, W, L, Pct., GB.



CYCLING'S NEW STAR - Jan Ullrich.

ty to his team leader Bjarne Riis, the 1996 champion. Ullrich astonished all onlookers with his strength in the saddle, never rising on to his pedals as he powered his way up the climbs in the manner of Indurain.

tioned to be for the German what Italy's Claudio Chiappucci was to Indurain. "We have seen someone (Vireneque) capable of replying to (Ullrich) and must thank the presence of Marco Pantani," Le Blanc said.



